

**ABSTRACT****Backup System and Method of Generating a Checkpoint for a Database**

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A backup system for a database, the backup system being operable to;

store a preceding checkpoint containing the contents of the database,

receive at least one transaction log, the at least one transaction log identifying changes to the contents of the database,

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generate a new checkpoint by merging the preceding checkpoint and the at least one transaction log,

and store the new checkpoint. For faster generation of the new checkpoint, the or each transaction log is sorted prior to merging the or each transaction log with the checkpoint.

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